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Elections in Ghana

[\[Official Web Site\]](#)

Political Profile

Political System: Democracy

President: John Dramani Mahama (NDC) [since 24 July 2012; took office following the death of President John Atta Mills, who was elected in 2008] The President is elected by direct popular vote for a 4-year term. **Electoral System:** Two Round (Run-off).

Parliament [unicameral] (230 Seats) Members are elected by direct popular vote in single-member constituencies using the first-past-the-post system; members serve 4-year terms.

Electoral Authority: [Electoral Commission](#)

Political Situation since Independence

1957-1958 Democracy

1958-1964 Restricted Democratic Practice

1964-1966 One Party State (CPP)

1966-1969 Military Regime

1969-1972 Democracy

1972-1979 Military Regime

1979-1981 Democracy

1981-1992 Military Regime

1992-1996 Emerging Democracy

1996- Democracy

2012 Freedom House Rating: Political Rights - 1, Civil Liberties - 2, Status: Free

Next Scheduled Presidential Election: 7 December 2012 (First Round)

Next Scheduled Parliamentary Election: 28 December 2012

Political Parties: ACP - Action Congress Party, APRP - All People's Republican Party, AYA - Anlo Youth Association, CPP - Convention People's Party, DPP - Democratic People's Party, EGLE - Every Ghanaian Living Everywhere, FY - Federation of Youth, GCP - Ghana Congress Party, GCPP - Great Consolidated Popular Party, MAP - Muslim Association Party, NAL - National Alliance of Liberals, NCP - National Convention Party, [NDC - National Democratic Congress](#), NIP - National Independence Party, NLM - National Liberation Movement, [NPP - New Patriotic Party](#), NPP - Northern People's Party, NRP - National Reform Party, PAP - People's Action Party, PCP - People's Convention Party, PFP - Popular Front Party, PHP - People's Heritage Party, PNC - People's National Convention, PNP - People's National Party, PP - Progress Party, SDF - Social Democratic Front, TC - Togoland Congress, TFP - Third Force Party, UGM - United Ghana Movement, UNC - United National Convention, UNP - United Nationalist Party, UP - United Party.

Coalitions: [Grand Coalition](#) [Contested the 2004 Presidential Election] Member parties include the People's National Convention (PNC), Every Ghanaian Living Everywhere (EGLE), and Great Consolidated People's Party (GCPP); [Great Alliance](#) [Contested the 1996 Presidential Election] Member parties include the New Patriotic Party (NPP) and the People's Convention Party (PCP); [Progressive Alliance](#) [Contested the 1992 Presidential Election] Member parties include the National Democratic Congress (NDC), Every Ghanaian Living Everywhere (EGLE), and the National Convention Party (NCP); [Contested the 1996 Presidential Election] Member parties include the National Democratic Congress (NDC), Every Ghanaian Living Everywhere (EGLE), and the Democratic People's Party (DPP).

Election Results

Presidential

--Multiparty: [1960](#), [1979](#), [1992](#), [1996](#), [2000](#), [2004](#)

--Single Party: [1965](#)

Legislative

--Multiparty: [1951](#), [1954](#), [1956](#), [1969](#), [1979](#), [1992](#), [1996](#), [2000](#), [2004](#)

--Single Party: [1965](#)

Referenda/Plebiscites

--National: [1960](#), [1964](#), [1978](#), [1992](#)

--Sub-National: [1956](#)

8 February 1951 Legislative Assembly Election

Registered Voters Not Available
Total Votes (Voter Turnout) Not Available (N/A)
Invalid/Blank Votes Not Available
Total Valid Votes 663,069

Party

Party	Number of Seats (38)*
Convention People's Party (CPP)	34
United Gold Coast Convention (UGCC)	2
Independents	2

*38 out of 84 members were directly-elected; 37 members were indirectly-elected by territorial councils, six were appointed to represent commercial interests, and three were ex-officio members appointed by the Governor.

15 June 1954 Legislative Assembly Election

Registered Voters Not Available
Total Votes (Voter Turnout) Not Available (N/A)

Party

Party	Number of Seats (104)
Convention People's Party (CPP)	71
Northern People's Party (NPP)	12
Togoland Congress (TC)	2
Ghana Congress Party (GCP)	1
Muslim Association Party (MAP)	1

Anlo Youth Association (AYA)	1
Independents	16

17 July 1956 Legislative Assembly Election

Registered Voters	1,392,874
Total Votes (Voter Turnout)	Not Available (N/A)
Invalid/Blank Votes	Not Available
Total Valid Votes	697,257

Party	Number of Votes	% of Votes	Number of Seats (104)
Convention People's Party (CPP)	398,141	57.10%	71
Northern People's Party (NPP)	72,440	10.39%	15
National Liberation Movement (NLM)	145,657	20.89%	12
Togoland Congress (TC)	20,352	2.92%	2
Muslim Association Party (MAP)	11,111	1.59%	1
Federation of Youth (FY)	10,745	1.54%	1
Independents	38,811	5.57%	2

27 April 1960 Plebiscite

Main Points: Presidential Republic, Increased Presidential Powers, Unitary state without any federal traits

Ballot Question: Do you accept the draft republican Constitution for Ghana as set out in the White Paper issued by the Government on 7 March 1960?

Registered Voters	2,098,651
Total Votes (Voter Turnout)	Not Available (N/A)
Invalid/Blank Votes	Not Available
Total Valid Votes	1,140,165

Results	Number of Votes	% of Votes
"Yes" Votes	1,008,740	88.47%
"No" Votes	131,425	11.53%

27 April 1960 Presidential Election*

Ballot Question: Do you accept Kwame Nkrumah or Joseph Boakye Danquah as the first President under the new Constitution?

Registered Voters	2,098,651
Total Votes (Voter Turnout)	Not Available (N/A)
Invalid/Blank Votes	Not Available
Total Valid Votes	1,140,699

Candidate (Party)	Number of Votes	% of Votes
Kwame Nkrumah (CPP)	1,016,076	89.07%
Joseph Boakye Danquah (UP)	124,623	10.93%

*The presidential election was held alongside the plebiscite on the draft republican constitution. If the measure passed (as it did), the winner would be declared president of the republic.

31 January 1964 Constitutional Referendum

Main Points: Sole Legal Party, Increased Presidential Powers

Registered Voters	Not Available
Total Votes (Voter Turnout)	Not Available (N/A)
Invalid/Blank Votes	Not Available
Total Valid Votes	2,776,372

Results	Number of Votes	% of Votes
"Yes" Votes	2,773,920	99.91%
"No" Votes	2,452	0.09%

Single Party Elections

Sole Legal Party: Convention People's Party (CPP)

9 June 1965 National Assembly Election* (198 Seats)

*All 198 candidates were selected by the CPP Central Committee and were subsequently declared elected without the scheduled election taking place.

29 August 1969 National Assembly Election* [\[Seats Won by Region\]](#)

Registered Voters	2,360,000 (approx.)
Total Votes (Voter Turnout)	Not Available (N/A)

Party	Number of Votes	% of Votes	Number of Seats (140)
Progress Party (PP)	877,310	58.33%	105
National Alliance of Liberals (NAL)	463,401	30.81%	29
United Nationalist Party (UNP)	57,652	3.83%	2
People's Action Party (PAP)	51,125	3.40%	2
All People's Republican Party (APRP)	27,328	1.82%	1
Independents	27,216	1.81%	1

*Voting was delayed in two constituencies: Chiana-Paga (Upper East Region; held on 2 September 1969) and Tumu (Upper West Region; held on 3 September 1969).

30 March 1978 Referendum

Main Points: A union of civilian and military institutions in government

Ballot Question: "Do you approve whether or not some form of Union Government would become the basis of Ghana's political system?"

Registered Voters	4,497,803
Total Votes (Voter Turnout)	Not Available (N/A)
Invalid/Blank Votes	Not Available
Total Valid Votes	2,282,813

Results	Number of Votes	% of Votes
"Yes" Votes	1,372,427	60.11%
"No" Votes	910,386	39.89%

June & July 1979 Presidential ElectionFirst Round (18 June 1979)

Registered Voters	5,000,000 (approx.)
Total Votes (Voter Turnout)	Not Available (N/A)
Invalid/Blank Votes	Not Available
Total Valid Votes	1,788,209

Second Round (9 July 1979)

Registered Voters	5,000,000 (approx.)
Total Votes (Voter Turnout)	Not Available (N/A)
Invalid/Blank Votes	Not Available
Total Valid Votes	1,804,402

Candidate (Party)	First Round		Second Round	
	Number of Votes	% of Votes	Number of Votes	% of Votes
Hilla Limann (PNP)	631,559	35.32%	1,118,305	61.98%
Victor Owusu (PFP)	533,928	29.86%	686,097	38.02%
William Ofori-Atta (UNC)	311,265	17.41%	-	-
Frank Bernasko (ACP)	167,775	9.38%	-	-
Alhaji Ibrahim Mahama (SDF)	66,445	3.72%	-	-
John Bilson (TFP)	49,104	2.75%	-	-
R. P. Baffour	8,812	0.49%	-	-
Kwame Nyanteh	8,490	0.47%	-	-
Mark Diamond Addy	5,957	0.33%	-	-
Alhaji Imoru Ayarna	4,874	0.27%	-	-

18 June 1979 National Assembly Election

Registered Voters	5,000,000 (approx.)
Total Votes (Voter Turnout)	Not Available (N/A)
Invalid/Blank Votes	Not Available
Total Valid Votes	1,770,379

Party	Number of Votes	% of Votes	Number of Seats (140)
People's National Party (PNP)	645,080	36.44%	71
Popular Front Party (PFP)	541,659	30.60%	42
United National Convention (UNC)	310,062	17.51%	13
Action Congress Party (ACP)	156,484	8.84%	10
Social Democratic Front (SDF)	69,052	3.90%	3
Third Force Party (TFP)	31,887	1.80%	-
Independents	16,165	0.91%	1

28 April 1992 Constitutional Referendum

Main Points: Multiparty System, Division of Powers

Registered Voters	8,255,690
Total Votes (Voter Turnout)	Not Available (N/A)
Invalid/Blank Votes	Not Available
Total Valid Votes	3,680,974

Results

	Number of Votes	% of Votes
"Yes" Votes	3,408,119	92.59%
"No" Votes	272,855	7.41%

3 November 1992 Presidential Election [\[Results by Region\]](#)

Registered Voters	8,229,902
Total Votes (Voter Turnout)	4,127,876 (50.2%)
Invalid/Blank Votes	149,811
Total Valid Votes	3,978,065

Candidate (Party) [Coalition]

	Number of Votes	% of Votes
Jerry John Rawlings (NDC) [Progressive Alliance]	2,323,135	58.40%
Albert Adu Boahen (NPP)	1,204,764	30.29%
Hilla Limann (PNC)	266,710	6.70%
Kwabena Darko (NIP)	113,629	2.86%
Emmanuel Erskine (PHP)	69,827	1.76%

29 December 1992 Parliamentary Election* [\[Seats Won by Region\]](#)

Registered Voters	7,336,846**
Total Votes (Voter Turnout)	2,059,415** (28.1%)

Party	Number of Votes	% of Votes	Number of Seats (200)
National Democratic Congress (NDC)	1,521,629	77.53%	189
National Convention Party (NCP)	377,673	19.24%	8
Every Ghanaian Living Everywhere (EGLE)	10,098	0.51%	1
Independents	53,143	2.71%	2

*The following opposition parties boycotted the election: New Patriotic Party (NPP), People's National Convention (PNC), National Independence Party (NIP), and the People's Heritage Party (PHP).

**Registered and Total Vote figures exclude 23 constituencies with unopposed candidates.

7 December 1996 Presidential Election

Registered Voters	9,279,605
Total Votes (Voter Turnout)	7,266,693 (78.3%)
Invalid/Blank Votes	120,921
Total Valid Votes	7,145,772

Candidate (Party) [Coalition]

	Number of Votes	% of Votes
Jerry John Rawlings (NDC) [Progressive Alliance]	4,099,758	57.37%
John Kufuor (NPP) [Great Alliance]	2,834,878	39.67%
Edward Mahama (PNC)	211,136	2.95%

7 December 1996 Parliamentary Election [\[Seats Won by Region\]](#)

Registered Voters	Not Available
Total Votes (Voter Turnout)	Not Available (N/A)

Party	Number of Seats (200)
National Democratic Congress (NDC)	133
New Patriotic Party (NPP)	60
People's Convention Party (PCP)	5
People's National Convention (PNC)	1
Vacant*	1

*Voting was postponed in one constituency because of a legal dispute concerning the eligibility of candidates. The seat was subsequently won by the New Patriotic Party (NPP) in a by-election held in June 1997.

December 2000 Presidential Election**First Round (7 December 2000)**

Registered Voters	10,698,652
Total Votes (Voter Turnout)	6,605,084 (61.7%)
Invalid/Blank Votes	104,214

Total Valid Votes 6,500,870
Second Round (28 December 2000) [Results by Region]
 Registered Voters 10,698,652
 Total Votes (Voter Turnout) 6,459,003 (60.4%)
 Invalid/Blank Votes 77,616
 Total Valid Votes 6,381,387

Candidate (Party)	First Round		Second Round	
	Number of Votes	% of Votes	Number of Votes	% of Votes
John Agyekum Kufuor (NPP)	3,131,739	48.17%	3,631,263	56.90%
John Evans Atta Mills (NDC)	2,895,575	44.54%	2,750,124	43.10%
Edward Mahama (PNC)	189,659	2.92%	-	-
George Hagan (CPP)	115,641	1.78%	-	-
Augustus Obuadum "Goosie" Tanoh (NRP)	78,629	1.21%	-	-
Daniel Augustus Larney (GCPP)	67,504	1.04%	-	-
Charles Werekro-Brobby (UGM)	22,123	0.34%	-	-

7 December 2000 Parliamentary Election [Seats Won by Region]

Registered Voters 10,698,652
 Total Votes (Voter Turnout) 6,633,306 (62.0%)
 Invalid/Blank Votes 102,549
 Total Valid Votes 6,530,757

Party	Number of Votes	% of Votes	Number of Seats (200)
New Patriotic Party (NPP)	2,937,386	44.98%	99
National Democratic Congress (NDC)	2,691,515	41.21%	92
People's National Convention (PNC)	224,657	3.44%	3
Convention People's Party (CPP)	85,643	1.31%	1
National Reform Party (NRP)	147,196	2.25%	-
United Ghana Movement (UGM)	32,632	0.50%	-
Independents & Others*	411,728	6.30%	4
Vacant**	-	-	1

*All four seats were won by independents.

**After a by-election held on 3 January 2001, the vacant seat was filled by the New Patriotic Party (NPP).

7 December 2004 Presidential Election [Results by Region]

Registered Voters 10,354,970
 Total Votes (Voter Turnout) 8,813,908 (85.1%)
 Invalid/Blank Votes 188,123
 Total Valid Votes 8,625,785

Candidate (Party)	Number of Votes	% of Votes
John Agyekum Kufuor (NPP)	4,524,074	52.45%
John Evans Atta Mills (NDC)	3,850,368	44.64%
Edward Mahama (PNC) [Grand Coalition]	165,375	1.92%
George Aggudey (CPP)	85,968	1.00%

7 December 2004 Parliamentary Election [Seats Won by Region]

Registered Voters 10,354,970
 Total Votes (Voter Turnout) Not Available (N/A)

Party	Number of Seats (230)
New Patriotic Party (NPP)	128
National Democratic Congress (NDC)	94
People's National Convention (PNC)	4
Convention People's Party (CPP)	3
Independent	1

December 2008 Presidential Election

First Round (7 December 2008)

Registered Voters 12,472,758
 Total Votes (Voter Turnout) 8,671,272 (69.5%)
 Invalid/Blank Votes 205,438
 Total Valid Votes 8,465,834

Second Round (28 December 2008)

Registered Voters 12,472,758
 Total Votes (Voter Turnout) 9,094,364 (72.9%)
 Invalid/Blank Votes 92,886
 Total Valid Votes 9,001,478

Candidate (Party)	First Round		Second Round	
	Number of Votes	% of Votes	Number of Votes	% of Votes
John Evans Atta Mills (NDC)	4,056,634	47.92%	4,521,032	50.23%
Nana Akufo-Addo (NPP)	4,159,439	49.13%	4,480,446	49.77%
Paa Kwesi Nduom (CPP)	113,494	1.34%	-	-
Edward Mahama (PNC)	73,494	0.87%	-	-
Emmanuel Ansah-Antwi (DFP)	27,889	0.33%	-	-
Kwasi Amoako-Yeboah	19,342	0.23%	-	-
Thomas Ward-Brew (DPP)	8,653	0.10%	-	-
Kwabena Adjei (RPD)	6,889	0.08%	-	-

7 December 2008 Parliamentary Election*

Registered Voters 12,472,758
 Total Votes (Voter Turnout) Not Available (N/A)

Party	Number of Seats (230)
National Democratic Congress (NDC)	114
New Patriotic Party (NPP)	107
People's National Convention (PNC)	2
Convention People's Party (CPP)	1
Independents	4
Vacant*	2

*Petitions were filed by candidates challenging the results in two constituencies. When the results were officially declared, both the National Democratic Congress (NDC) and New Patriotic Party (NPP) each gained an additional seat, bringing their totals to 115 and 108, respectively.

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